

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 NRC-05 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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PM/MC - MR. C. BRYANT

AF/S - MR. PERRY

PM/SAS - MR. HESTER (INFO ONLY)

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R 242107Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

DOD/DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127740

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI BC

SUBJECT: IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION INTO
BOTSWANA

REFERECNE: GABORONE 1109 (DTG 191300Z AUG 75) NOTAL

1. UNIVERSAL SPORTING GOODS INC. OF MIAMI, FLORIDA APPLIED
FOR AN EXPORT LICENSE TO SELL THE FOLLOWING WEAPONS AND
AMMUNITION TO THE CHARLES HILL TRADING STORE, GHANZI,
BOTSWANA:

100 .30 CL. M-1 CARBINES; 100 15 ROUND MAGAZINES; 100
30 ROUND MAGAZINES; 100,000 ROUNDS .30 CAL. AMMUNITION

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2. THE COMPANY WHICH REQUESTED UNIVERSAL SPORTING GOODS TO

SELL THE ABOVE WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS WAS A. ROSENTHAL (PTY) LTD., WINDHOEK, SOUTH WEST AFRICA. IN THEIR LETTER TO UNIVERSAL, ROSENTHALL CLAIMED THE CHARLES HILL TRADING STORE IS ONE OF THEIR ASSOCIATED COMPANIES. THEY ALSO INSTRUCTED UNIVERSAL ON A PROCEDURE TO SHIP THE WEAPONS VIA NEW YORK TO WALVIS BAY (THE NEAREST PORT OF ENTRY).

3. TO FURTHER COMPOUND THE CASE, A COPY OF THE REPUBLIC OF

BOTSWANA'S PERMIT TO IMPORT AMMUNITION AND ARMS (RESIDENT) APPROVING THE IMPORT OF THE ABOVE MUNITIONS INTO BOTSWANA WAS ENCLOSED WITH THE EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION. THIS PERMIT, NO. 595, DATED 29 MARCH 1976, WAS ISSUED TO A MR. K. CORDING OF CHARLES HILL TRADING STORE, GHANZI AND WAS SIGNED BY A P. P. MATHEATIE UNDER THE MAUN DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S STAMP. ACCORDING TO YOUR REFTEL THERE ARE ONLY TWO ARMS AND AMMUNITION WHOLESALERS IN BOTSWANA THAT ARE APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO BE ARMS IMPORTERS AND DEALERS--WESTERN GRUST IN GABORONE AND M.S. EBRAHIM IN FRANCISTOWN.

4. THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXPORT LICENSE TO UNIVERSAL HAS BEEN DENIED BY THE DEPARTMENT BASED ON THE FOLLOWING REASONS.

A. THE MILITARY NATURE OF THE WEAPONS; B. THE FACT THAT WEAPONS WOULD ENTER THE CONTINENT THROUGH A SOUTH AFRICAN CONTROLLED PORT OF ENTRY; C. THE APPARENT IRREGULARITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA IMPORT PERMIT. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THE WEAPONS HAD ALREADY BEEN SHIPPED, BUT WERE SEIZED IN NEW YORK BY CUSTOMS.

5. COPIES OF PERTINENT DOCUMENTS WILL BE POUCHED THIS DATE. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON CASE. SISCO

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: GABORONE
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